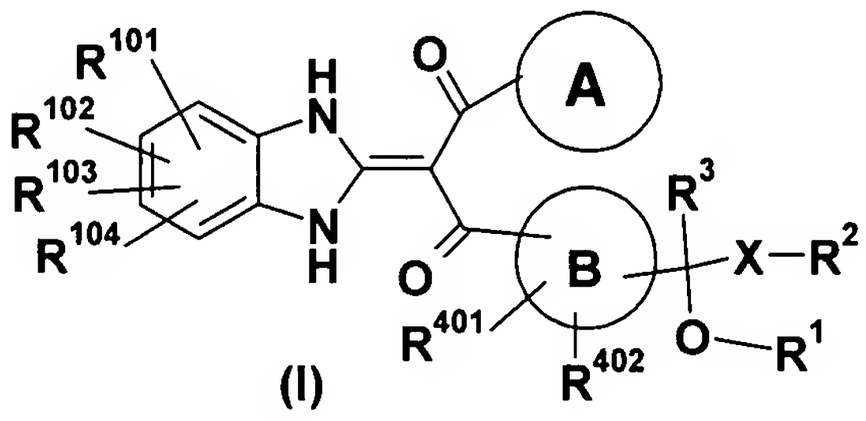
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(I) (I)

[symbols in the formula mean as follows,

ring A: benzene which may be substituted, pyridine which may be substituted or thiophene ring,

ring B: benzene or thiophene ring,

R^1: H or –CO-lower alkyl,

R^2: H, -O-R^5, -N(R^6)R^7, -N_3, -S(O)□-lower alkyl, -S(O)□-N(R^6)R^7, halogen, pyridyl or imidazolyl which may be substituted,

R^5: H, lower alkyl, -CO-lower alkyl which may be substituted, or -CO-O-lower alkyl which may be substituted,

R^6 and R^7: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, lower alkyl, or -CO-lower alkyl, with the proviso that R^1 and R^2 may together form dioxolane which may be substituted,

m: 0, 1 or 2,

R^3: H or lower alkyl,

R^{401} and R^{402}: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen, OH, -O-lower alkyl, or lower alkyl,

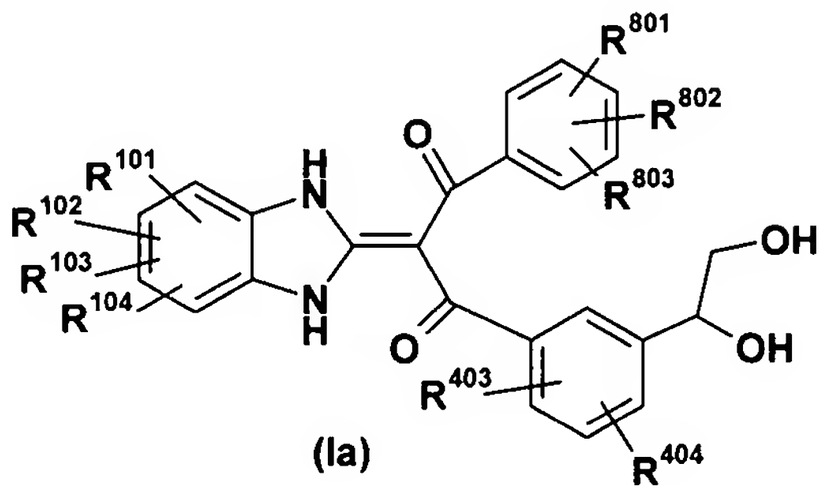
X: bond, lower alkylene which may be substituted, or cycloalkanediyl,

R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or -O-lower alkyl which may be substituted with (aryl or heteroaryl)].

2. (original): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 1, wherein ring A is benzene ring which may be substituted with halogen atom or lower alkyl, ring B is benzene ring, R^1 is H, R^2 is OH, R^3 is H, and X is lower alkylene which may be substituted.

3. (original): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 2, wherein X is methylene which may be substituted.

4. (currently amended): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by a general formula (Ia) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(Ia)

(symbols in the formula mean as follows,

R^{801}, R^{802} and R^{803}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl,

R^{403} and R^{404}: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl, and,

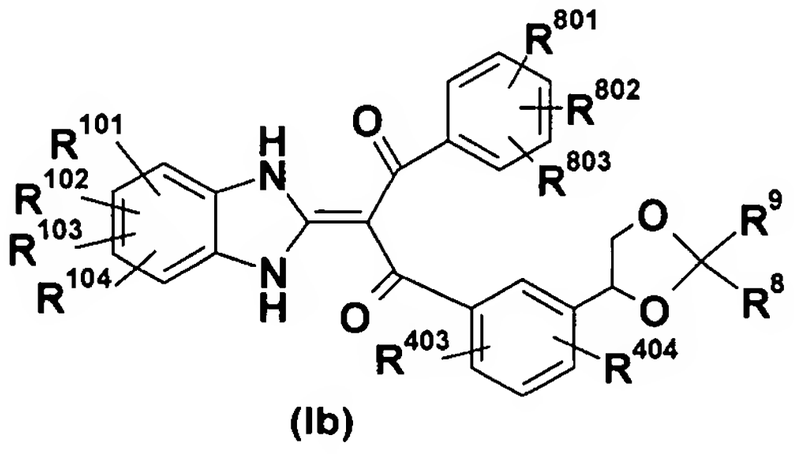
R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or lower alkyl which may be substituted with -O-(aryl or heteroaryl)).

5. (original): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 4, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-(1,3-Dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(3,4,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-butyl-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[5-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]2-methylphenyl}propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-

benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(2-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)phenyl]-3-(2,3,5-trifluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-methylphenyl}-3-(3-methylphenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-2-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-3-[3-(1,2-dihydroxyethyl)-4-fluorophenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3,5-difluorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-{3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]-2-fluorophenyl}-3-(3-fluorophenyl)propane-1,3-dione; 1-{2-chloro-3-[(1R)-1,2-dihydroxyethyl]phenyl}-3-(3-chlorophenyl)-2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)propane-1,3-dione.

6. (currently amended): A propane-1,3-dione derivative represented by a general formula (Ib) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof



(Ib)

(symbols in the formula mean as follows,

R^8 and R^9: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl or –O-lower alkyl,

R^{801}, R^{802} and R^{803}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl,

R^{403} and R^{404}: may be the same or different from each other and each is H, halogen or lower alkyl, and,

R^{101}, R^{102}, R^{103} and R^{104}: may be the same or different from one another and each is H, halogen, OH, or lower alkyl which may be substituted with -O-(aryl or heteroaryl)).

7. (original): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 6, wherein R^{801}, R^{802} and R^{803} may be the same or different from one another and each represents H or a halogen atom.

8. (original): The propane-1,3-dione derivative or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof according to claim 7, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, which is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of:

2-(1,3-Dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-[3-(2-methoxy-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)phenyl]propane-1,3-dione; 2-(1,3-dihydro-2H-benzimidazol-2-ylidene)-1-(3-fluorophenyl)-3-[3-(2-methoxy-2-methyl-1,3-dioxolan-4-yl)phenyl]propane-1,3-dione or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

9. (original): A pharmaceutical composition comprising as an active ingredient a propane—1,3—dione compound represented by the general formula (I) or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof as claimed in claim 1, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

10. (original): The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 9, which is a GnRH receptor antagonist.

11. (original): The pharmaceutical composition as claimed in claim 10, which is the GnRH receptor antagonist for treating prostate cancer, breast cancer, endometriosis, uterine leiomyoma, or benign prostatic hypertrophy.